

REMARKS

Claims 31, 41-44 have been amended.

Claim 40 has been cancelled without prejudice with respect to future filings.

Claims 1-39, and 41-46 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 36, 45, and 46 are in independent format.

1. Substitute Specification and Formal Drawing Amendment

The present application was filed with informal drawing figures. Applicant hereby submits a combination drawing amendment / formal drawing figures. To reduce the number of formal drawing figures required, Applicant has elected to delete a number of original drawing figures which illustrated the prior art. (Original Figures 1-8, 18, 23, and 24). Accordingly, the remaining drawing figures have been renumbered and submitted as formal drawing figures by this amendment. No other changes have been made to the drawing figures.

Due to the numerous changes in drawing figure references required throughout the Specification by the deletion of original figures 1-8, 18, 23, and 24, a Substitute Specification has been provided in both a clean version and a marked-up version showing the changes. *No new matter has been added by the substitute specification.*

2. Election / Restriction Under 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner's requirement that the Applicant elect a single disclosed species of the claimed invention for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable is respectfully traversed. It is the Examiner's stated position that no claims are generic.

Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Figure 13 (now Figure 5) referring to the wheel balancing system.
- Figure 21 (now Figure 12) referring to the tire changing system.

In the event Applicant's following arguments against the election requirement are not deemed persuasive, Applicant hereby elects to proceed with the species of the invention which are generic and which are referring to a wheel balancing system, such as disclosed in original Figure 13 (now Figure 5). This includes Claims 1-2, 4-39, and 41-46.

Currently, Claims 1, 4-35, and 41-44 are believed to be generic claims. These claims do not require any specific limitations which would restrict the claims to either a vehicle wheel balancer system or a vehicle tire changing system. All of the features set forth in these claims are described for use in either a vehicle wheel balancing system, vehicle tire changing system, or other vehicle service system, such as those which may combine features of both a tire changing system and a vehicle wheel balancing system. If the Examiner feels these claims are not generic, an identification of the specific species (i.e. wheel balancer or tire changer) for each claim is requested.

Currently, Claims 2, 36-39, and 45-46 are specifically directed to a vehicle wheel balancing system.

Only dependent Claim 3 is specifically directed to a vehicle tire changing system.

Accordingly, Applicant traverses the Examiner's restriction requirement, and specifically, the Examiner's statement that no claims are currently considered generic. As shown above, Claims 1, 4-35, and 41-44 are believed to be generic claims.

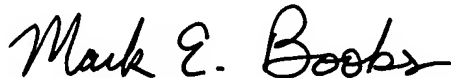
Accordingly, Applicant requests entry of an election of Claims 1, 2, 4-39, and 41-46, consisting of generic claims and claims directed towards a vehicle wheel balancing system. Upon acceptance of this election by the Examiner, Applicant authorizes withdrawal of dependant Claim 3 until such time as the generic parent Claim 1 is found allowable.

2. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the examination of claims 1, 2, 4-39, and 41-46 is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Books, Reg. No. 40,918
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63131
Tel: (314) 238-2400
Fax: (314) 238-2401
mbooks@patpro.com